

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of updating inventory data in an inventory management system, the method comprising:

in a computer software application, requesting a plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system;

selecting at least one model from the plurality of requested inventory models;

generating an inventory update form for each of the plurality of inventory models in the software application program;

populating each inventory update form with updated inventory data in the software application program; and

sending the updated inventory data from the software application program to the inventory management system.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the status of the updated inventory data sent to the inventory management system; and

if the status of the updated inventory data is failed, then resending the updated inventory data to the inventory management system.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data comprises saving the updated inventory data in the inventory management system.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein requesting a plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system comprises:

logging into the inventory management system;
retrieving the plurality of inventory models from a database in the
inventory management system; and
saving the plurality of inventory models to a file.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the updated inventory data from the software application program to the inventory management system comprises:
sending the updated inventory data to an inventory management
database;
logging into the inventory management system; and
sending the updated inventory data from the inventory management
database to the inventory management system.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of inventory models comprise default configuration data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the updated inventory data comprises specific configuration data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

10. A computer system for updating inventory data, the computer system comprising:
a remote computer in the computer system for storing a database comprising inventory model data;
a network interface;

a client computer, in communication with the remote computer over the network interface, the client computer comprising:

a memory device for storing a program file; and

a processor, functionally coupled to the memory device, the processor being responsive to computer-executable instructions contained in the program file, wherein the program file comprises a user interface for:

requesting the inventory model data from the database;

selecting one or more inventory models from the requested inventory model data;

generating an inventory update form from the one or more selected inventory models;

populating the inventory update form with the updated inventory data; and

storing the updated inventory data in the database.

11. The computer system of claim 10, wherein the inventory model data comprises default configuration data for inventoried equipment stored in the database.

12. The computer system of claim 10, further comprising retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

13. A system for updating inventory data in an inventory management database, the system comprising:

a client computer;

a remote computer;

a network connection between the local computer and the remote computer allowing data transfer therebetween;

wherein the remote computer comprises:

an inventory management database for storing inventory model data; and

a software application program, residing on the remote computer, for retrieving the inventory model data from the database;
wherein the local computer comprises:
a user interface for:
requesting the software application program to retrieve the inventory model data from the inventory management database;
selecting at least one inventory model from the received inventory model data;
generating an inventory update form from the at least one selected inventory model;
populating the inventory update form with the updated inventory data; and
sending the updated inventory data to the inventory management database.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the software application program is a screen scraper application program.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of:
requesting a plurality of inventory models from an inventory management system;
selecting at least one of the plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system;
generating an inventory update form for each of the selected inventory models;
populating each inventory update form with updated inventory data;
sending the updated inventory data to the inventory management system;
updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data; and

retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the plurality of inventory models comprise default configuration data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the updated inventory data comprises specific configuration data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

18. A method of updating inventory data in an inventory management system, the method comprising:

in a computer software application, requesting a current inventory from the inventory management system;

receiving the current inventory from the inventory management system in the software application program;

generating at least one inventory update form for the current inventory in the software application program;

populating the at least one inventory update form with updated inventory data in the software application program; and

sending the updated inventory data from the software application program to the inventory management system.